Ute Tribe Gives Congress Plan for Dividing Assets

By Frank Hewlett
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 9—Ute Indians of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation presented to a joint congressional subcommittee Wednesday an ambitious program for dividing the assets of this rich tribe between the mixed-blood and full-blood members.

The joint subcommittee, headed by Sen. Arthur V. Watkins (R., Utah), appeared most receptive to the program which also calls for termination of federal supervision over the mixed-bloods.

In addition, Indian Commissioner Glenn L. Emmons described the proposed program as the possible basis for working out the problems of other Indian tribes and lauded the Utah Indians for their initiative.

He promised a favorable report on legislation authorizing the program would be issued by the Department of Interior within a few days.

Four members of the tribal council, all Utahns, testified at the hearing. They were Rex Curry, business manager, and Albert Harris, Conner Chapoose and Russell Cutch. In addition, the subcommittee heard John Boyden of Salt Lake City, attorney for the tribe, and Harry Gilmore, superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

Under the program the assets of the tribe would be divided equally between the 1,769 members, of which 439 are of mixed-blood or less than 50 per cent Indian. Early in the program there would be two tribal councils but gradually the council for the mixed-blood group would disappear as the members were absorbed by the white community.

MR. BOYDEN FRANKLY told the subcommittee that there had been some failures in the Ute program which now has been in progress for three years.

White men have contributed to these failures, he said, pointing out that the Indians had spent too much of their money for automobiles. The money was mainly received from the $1,000 per capita payment made to members of the tribe out of the more than $30 million court judgment awarded in 1951.

Mr. Boyden said an ambitious program had been worked out for the next seven years and expressed belief that the Indians would not be ready for so-called liberation before that period.

Two full-blood Indians, Mr. Chapoose and Mr. Cutch, both told the lawmakers that their people had not benefited as much as they should have from the tribal program so far.

The former asked that complete liberation be postponed "until our children are educated" and Mr. Cutch said he believed another per capita payment would be needed to help out the full-bloods.

Mr. Curry reviewed the work being done to help the Indians. He said there were 490 attending public schools now and absentees were declining. He also noted that a recreation program, sponsored by the tribal council, was progressing and that white people were coming to the reservation to take courses in basket weaving and pottery making.

MR. EMMONS DESCRIBED the bill under consideration as "a fine example of what can be accomplished" when the Indians and the Congress work together for the constructive good of the Indian people.

Sen. Watkins praised the Mr. Emmons and his office in helping his joint subcommittee to solve the problems of the Indians.

Dworshak Slates Southeastern Idaho Addresses

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 9—Sen. Henry C. Dworshak (R., Ida.), who has been tied up with the Army-McCarthy hearings for more than a month, is going to spend the week end in Southeastern Idaho. It will be his first trip to the Gem state since the start of the congressional session in January.

Idaho's senior senator said he will address the state Elk's convention in Idaho Falls Friday morning. On Saturday he plans to visit in Blackfoot and Pocatello. The senator expects to be back in Washington Monday morning for the resumption of the hearings.

"Don't worry—we'll make that train with minutes to spare."

NINE SIGN MINORITY REPORT

Panel Files Reports on Colorado Project

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 9 — A seven-page minority report blasting the Upper Colorado Storage Project was filed with the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee Wednesday afternoon along with a much lengthier majority report supporting the proposed billion dollar development.

Committee aids said the report should be printed Thursday and made public.

Nine members of the committee signed the minority report. However, three others who voted against the bill did not sign it. They were Reps. George Bender (R., O.), H. R. Gross (R., Ia.) and Sam Yorty (D., Cal.) The latter won the Democratic nomination for the U. S. Senate in California's primary election this week.

Signing the report were Reps. John P. Saylor (R., Pa.), John R. Pillion (R., N. Y.), Craig Hosmer (R., Cal.), Ken Regan (D., Tex.), James G. Donovan (D., N. Y.), Leo W. O'Brien (D., N.Y.), Walter Rogers (D., Tex.), James A. Haley (D., Fla.) and George A. Shuford (D., N. C.).

The majority report, bearing the signature of Chairman A. L. Miller (R., Nebr.), has been under preparation for the past two weeks. Such a report is required on important legislation before the Rules Committee will consider the bill.

Minority reports are not unusual.

U. S. Counts Noses

WASHINGTON, June 9 (AP) — The Census Bureau said Wednesday the nation's population, including armed services overseas, was about 161,969,000 on May 1.

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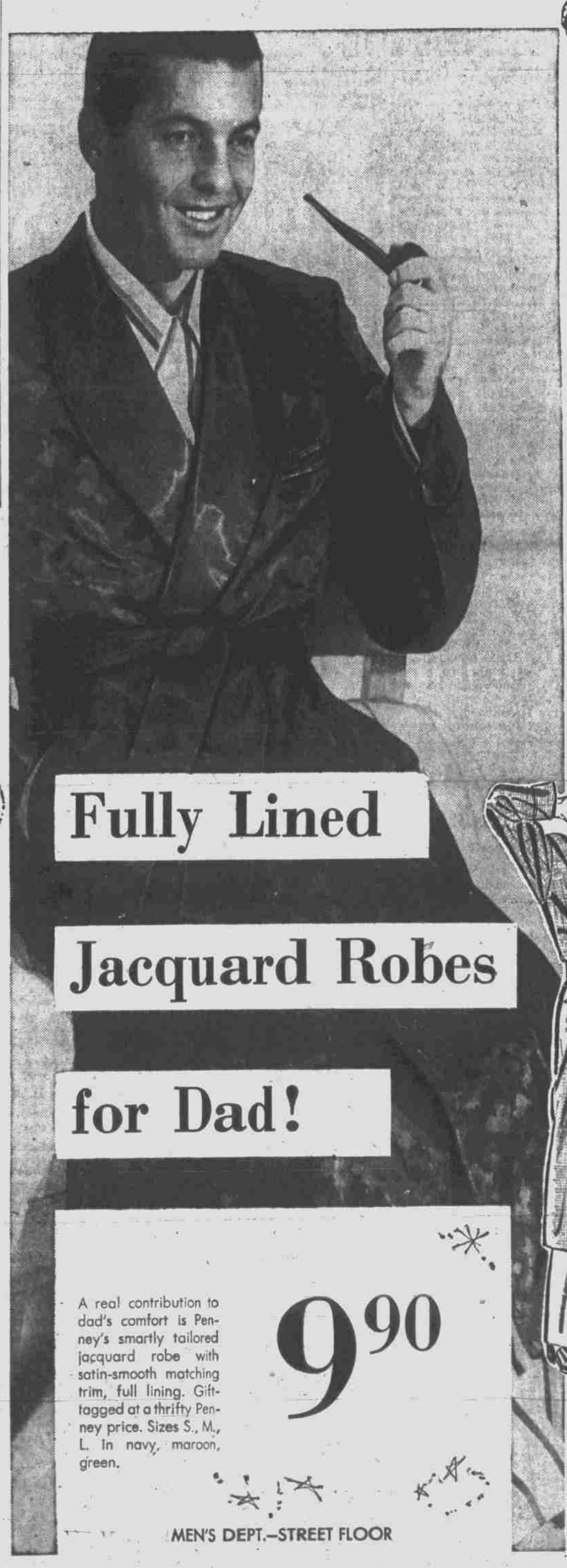

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